

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections**1. Name**

historic Trinity Episcopal Church

and/or common Trinity Episcopal Church

2. Location

street & number 300 South Fifth Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Atchison N/A vicinity of

state Kansas

code 20

county Atchison

code 005

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name The Trinity Episcopal Church of Atchison, KS (a corporation)

street & number 300 South Fifth Street

city, town Atchison N/A vicinity of

state Kansas 66002

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Atchison County Courthouse

city, town Atchison

state KS 66002

6. Representation in Existing Surveystitle Kansas Historic Resources Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1969 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society, 120 West Tenth

city, town Topeka

state KS 66612

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered
(slightly)

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Trinity Episcopal Church is located at the southeast corner of Fifth and Utah (U.S. 59) in Atchison, about two blocks south of the central business district. It faces north toward Utah Street, which is the main east-west artery through Atchison.

The church was designed in the Early English Gothic style and was built of coursed limestone rubble. It is rectangular in plan, about 45 by 75 feet, with a projecting vestibule on the north end and a polygonal apse on the south. (A wing of the Parish Hall abuts the south end of the church and wraps around the apse, but it is not a part of the nominated building.) The church has parapet gables and a multicolored, patterned slate roof. There is no tower or steeple. Instead, an open bellcote (which never contained a bell) rises from the peak of the north gable.

The projecting vestibule is located in the center of the north facade. The double doors were installed in 1961. They were carved by Joe Ihasz, a Hungarian native who came to the United States in 1950. Above the vestibule is a pair of lancet windows surmounted by a small circular window. Two other lancet windows flank the vestibule, and two small ones are placed in the sides of the vestibule itself. The east and west walls once had seven lancet windows each, but the southernmost window on either side has been filled in. All the windows have stained glass. Most are memorial windows which have been installed through the years to commemorate members of the congregation. The walls are supported by stepped buttresses with diagonal buttresses at the corners.

The interior consists of a rectangular nave with a raised chancel at the south end. Beyond this is the apse, containing an altar of white Italian Carrara marble, which was installed in 1911. The rafters and pews are walnut and are original to the building, as are most of the chancel furnishings, although the pulpit and lectern are more recent. The only major change to the interior has been the removal of the stenciling which once adorned the walls.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates 1866-68

Builder/Architect James C. Sidney of Philadelphia, PA

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Trinity Episcopal Church is significant both for its architecture and for its place in the history of the City of Atchison. It is one of the two finest and most intact examples of mid-nineteenth century English Gothic religious architecture in Kansas. (The other is St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Leavenworth. Other early churches in the English Gothic tradition in Kansas are either simpler or less intact.) Begun in 1866 and completed in 1868, it was designed, according to the vestry records, by "Mr. Sidney of Philadelphia." This was evidently James C. Sidney, an architect who practiced in Philadelphia in the 1860s and 70s, and who is known to have designed at least one other Episcopal Church.

The design of Trinity Church is believed to be based closely on that of Calvary Episcopal Church in Stonington, Connecticut, which was designed by Richard Upjohn and erected in 1848.

The congregation had its beginning in 1857, shortly after the founding of Atchison in 1854, the year Kansas was opened for settlement.

Among the early citizens of Atchison who belonged to Trinity Church was Alfred G. Otis, grandfather of flier Amelia Earhart. Otis was a vestryman at the time the church was built and participated in the selection of a builder. His daughter Amy was married to Edwin S. Earhart in Trinity Church in 1895, and their daughter, Amelia Earhart, was baptized there in 1897.

Another prominent early member of Trinity Church was John J. Ingalls, who served as a United States Senator from 1873 to 1891.

The rector of Trinity Church at the time this building was planned was the Rt. Rev. Thomas H. Vail, who was serving at the same time as the first Episcopal Bishop of Kansas.

Trinity Episcopal Church continues today to serve its congregation as a house of worship as it has for well over a century.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Ingalls, Sheffield. History of Atchison County. Standard Publishing Company,
Lawrence, KS, 1916.

White, The Rev. Francis S. The Story of a Kansas Parish. Atchison, KS: Burbank's, 1911.
Atchison City Directories, 1859, 1865, 1870-71.

Letters from Miner Myers, Jr., Connecticut College, 1973.

Memories of an early parishioner, Lucy V.H. Ingalls, in a paper written in the 1950s.

Taylor, Blanche Mercer. Plenteous Harvest, The Episcopal Church in Kansas, 1837-1972.
Topeka: Josten's, 1973.

The First 100 Years, The Diocese of Kansas, The Allen Press, Lawrence, KS, 1959.

This nomination was prepared from materials submitted by Mr. W. Richard Mize,
710 North Third Street, Atchison, KS 66002.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property LESS THAN ONE ACRE

Quadrangle name Atchison East, KS

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification The ground occupied by the church itself and between it and the adjacent streets on Lots 6 and 7, Block 27, Old Atchison. (The nomination does not include the Parish Hall.)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard J. Cawthon

organization Kansas State Historical Society

date February 21, 1985

street & number 120 West Tenth

telephone (913) 296-3251

city or town Topeka

state KS 66612

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

date February 22, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

Trinity Episcopal Church
Atchison, Atchison County, KS
Photographer unknown
View from northwest
Between 1905 and 1930
Photo 4 of 6

Trinity Episcopal Church
Atchison, Atchison County, KS
Photo by Richard J. Cawthon
Kansas State Historical Society
View from northwest
April, 1984
Photo 2 of 6

Trinity Episcopal Church
Atchison, Atchison County, KS
Photographer unknown
Interior from north, before 1911
Photo 5 of 6

Trinity Episcopal Church
Atchison, Atchison County, KS
Photo by Richard J. Cawthon
Kansas State Historical Society
Frontal view from north
April, 1984
Photo 1 of 6

Trinity Episcopal Church
Atchison, Atchison County, KS
Photographer unknown
Interior from north
1983
Photo 6 of 6

Trinity Episcopal Church
Atchison, Atchison County, KS
Photographer unknown
View from northwest
circa 1868
Photo 3 of 6

REGISTER OF HISTORIC KANSAS PLACES---COVER SHEET

Name of Property Trinity Episcopal ChurchLocation 300 South Fifth Street
(street and number)Atchison
(city, town, or vicinity location)Lots 6 and 7, Block 27, Old Atchison
(legal description)Atchison
(county)Owner of Property The Rector, Wardens & Vestry, Trinity Episcopal Church300 South Fifth Street
(street and number)Atchison, KS 66002
(city, town, county)

National Register status:

date approved for nomination to the National Register by Kansas Historic
Sites Board of Review November 17, 1984date entered in National Register April 4, 1985

Description: Trinity Episcopal Church is a rectangular stone church, about 44' x 75',
built of limestone, in the English Gothic Revival Style of the mid-nineteenth century.
It is aligned on a north-south axis, with a small rectangular narthex at the north and a
polygonal apse projecting from the south end. There is an open bellcote, without a bell,
over the entrance at the north end, but there is no tower or spire.

The interior contains the original black walnut pews and rafters. The Italian
Carrara marble altar was added in 1911. The windows are stained glass memorials, added
through the years.

The steeply-pitched roof is decorated with patterns of colored slates.

A parish hall, built from 1894 to 1905, abuts the church on the south, surrounding
the apse. It is not included in the nomination.

Significance Trinity Episcopal Church is one of the two finest and most intact
examples of mid-nineteenth century English Gothic religious architecture in Kansas.
It was built according to the plans of a Mr. Sidney of Philadelphia, based on the
design of Richard Upjohn's Calvary Episcopal Church in Stonington Conn. Construction
began in 1866 and the church was completed and consecrated in 1868.

Amelia Earhart's parents were married in this church in 1895, and she was
baptized here in 1897.

Form prepared by Richard J. Cawthon date November 14, 1984

This property was approved for listing in the Register of Historic Kansas Places by
the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review on November 17, 1984
I hereby certify that this property is included in the Register of Historic Kansas
Places.



State Historic Preservation Officer

Nov. 17, 1984
Date